

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A system for data communication, the system comprising:

a first circuit card;

a first transfer card coupled to the first circuit card;

a second circuit card;

a second transfer card coupled to the second circuit card;

a first switched network card;

a first interface card coupled to the first switched network card;

a second interface card coupled to the first switched network card;

a first data communication link connecting the first transfer card and the first interface card;

a second data communication link connecting the second transfer card and the second interface card;

wherein:

the first switched network card is coupled to the first interface card and the second interface card;

the first switched network card and the first circuit card are different types of cards.

44. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the first switched network card is configured to perform an exchange function between the first circuit card and the second circuit card.

45. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the first switched network card is further configured not to receive any data signal without through a circuit card.

46. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein:  
the first transfer card is coupled to the first circuit card through at least a first backplane;  
the second transfer card is coupled to the second circuit card through at least a second backplane;  
the first backplane and the second backplane are associated with different physical locations.

47. (New) The system of claim 46 wherein:  
the first transfer card, the first circuit card, and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;  
the second transfer card, the second circuit card, and the second backplane are associated with a second framework;  
the first framework and the second framework are associated with different physical locations.

48. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein:  
the first transfer card is coupled to the first circuit card through at least a first backplane;  
the first interface card is coupled to the first switched network card through at least a second backplane;  
the first backplane and the second backplane are associated with different physical locations.

49. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein:

the first transfer card, the first circuit card, and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;

the first interface card, the first switched network card, and the second backplane are associated with a second framework;

the first framework and the second framework are associated with different physical locations.

50. (New) The system of claim 43, and further comprising a second switched network card coupled to both the first interface card and the second interface card.

51. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein each of the first data communication link and the second data communication link includes an optical fiber.

52. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein:  
the first transfer card is coupled to the first circuit card through a base card and a backplane;  
the base card is coupled directly to both the first transfer card and the backplane.

53. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein:  
the first interface card is coupled to the first switched network card through a base card and a backplane;  
the base card is coupled directly to both the first interface card and the backplane.

54. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the first transfer card and the second transfer card are different.

55. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the first interface card and the second interface card are different.

56. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein the first data communication link and the second data communication link are different.

57. (New) A system for data communication, the system comprising:  
a first circuit card coupled to a first backplane;  
a second circuit card coupled to a second backplane;  
a switched network card coupled to the first circuit card and the second circuit card, the switched network card being configured to:  
    receive a first signal from the first circuit card;  
    receive a second signal from the second circuit card;  
    process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal;  
wherein:  
    the first backplane and the second backplane are associated with different physical locations;  
    the switched network card is further configured not to receive any data signal that is not sent from or through a circuit card.

58. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein:  
the first circuit card and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;  
the second circuit card and the second backplane are associated with a second framework;  
the first framework and the second framework are associated with different physical locations.

59. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein:  
the switched network card is coupled to a third backplane;  
the third backplane and the first backplane are associated with different physical locations;

the third backplane and the second backplane are associated with different physical locations.

60. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein:  
the first circuit card and the first backplane are associated with a first framework;  
the second circuit card and the second backplane are associated with a second framework;  
the switched network card and the second backplane are associated with a third framework;  
the third framework and the first framework are associated with different physical locations;  
the third framework and the second framework are associated with different physical locations;  
the first framework and the second framework are associated with different physical locations.

61. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal comprises perform at least one logic function.

62. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal comprises perform at least one exchange function.

63. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the circuit card and the switched network card are different types of cards.

64. (New) A method for making a system for data communication, the method comprising:

providing a first framework associated with a first circuit card and a first transfer card, the first transfer card being coupled to the first circuit card;

providing a second frame work associated with a second circuit card and a second transfer card, the second transfer card being coupled to the second circuit card;

providing a third framework associated with a switched network card and a first interface card and a second interface card, the first interface card being coupled to the switched network card, the second interface card being coupled to the switched network card;

connecting the first transfer card and the first interface card;

connecting the second transfer card and the second interface card;

wherein the switched network card is configured to:

- receive a first signal from the first circuit card;
- receive a second signal from the second circuit card;
- process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal.

65. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the switched network card is further configured not to receive any data signal without through a circuit card.

66. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal comprises perform at least one logic function.

67. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the process at least information associated with the first signal and the second signal comprises perform at least one exchange function.

68. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the first circuit card and the switched network card are different types of cards.